

Swamp Fox Scene



A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

Volume 3, Issue 10

March 2013

Candidates vying for Mayor, city council seats

Seven candidates have filed for the upcoming Marion general election, set for Tuesday, April 9. Included in this year's election are races for mayor and council seats in Districts 3, 5 and 6.

Mayor Rodney Berry will be seeking reelection and long-time Council Member Bobby Davis will be making his bid for the mayor's seat.

Three candidates are running to occupy the District 3 seat, Emerson Hunt, Pamela McRae and Betty Wright McRae. That seat is held by Betsy Atkinson, who will not seek reelection.

In District 5, incumbent Odessa Gregg will face former council member Jerry Mitchell. Michael Baker will run unopposed in District 6.



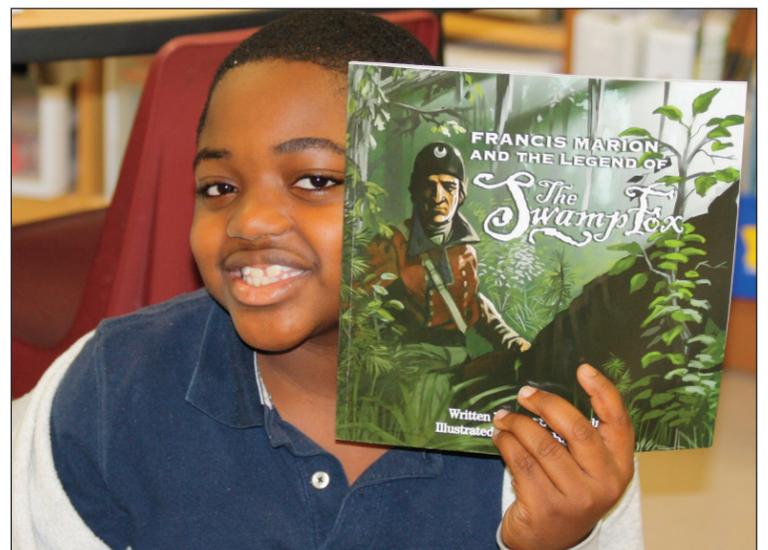
Walking trail gets new tree

City of Marion employees add a new tree to the Fletcher M. Johnson Sr. Environmental Trail in Withlacoochee Park. The walking trail was put into place in 2009 as an outdoor learning lab for Marion County school children and includes a foot trail and identification signs.



City of Marion Chamber distributes books to county's 3rd graders

Outgoing President of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, Alan Zeman, at left, helps distribute and give books about Gen. Francis Marion to the county's third graders. Chamber members annually support the school book program as a part of the group's Community Betterment program. The books add to the individual student's home library. Below at left is Cindy Dawsey's class and at right Machi Rogers shows off his new book.



CITY NEWS

Bacchus is city's top employee for January

Each month, the City of Marion awards an employee with the honor of Employee of the Month. The employee is chosen based on his or her performance during that month.

While many nominations are submitted for the outstanding work city employees do, only one person whose accomplishments are above and beyond the parameters of the job is selected. The Mayor and City Council are proud to honor recipients with this award and thank all employees for the exceptional work they do each day for the City and the citizens of Marion.

Officer Anthony Bacchuss was selected as the January Employee of the Month. Bacchuss has been employed with the City of Marion Police Department since November 2011 and has more than 15 years of law enforcement experience.

According to his supervisors, he consistently spends his time doing the right

things to focus enforcement action on the crimes and people that impact the safety of our community.

Bacchuss is involved with the Alcohol Enforcement Team and the Law Enforcement Network. He organizes area road checks and participates in saturation efforts.

"Bacchuss is a dedicated and efficient officer who continues to be a shining example for other officers to follow," said Marion Police Chief Jim Gray. "He would be a wonderful addition to virtually any law enforcement agency, and I am proud to say that he is



a City of Marion Police Officer." Mayor Rodney Berry and City Council recognized Bacchuss, shown above during the February Council Meeting, for his service and dedication.

City teams getting ready for first pitches; basketball winding down its season

Baseball, softball, T-ball and coach-pitch teams will soon start practicing for the season. The City Recreation Department is planning the 2013 Opening Day Ceremony for Saturday, April 13. Look for information about Opening Day in the local newspapers and on Facebook! Marion Recreation's regular basketball season has come to an end. The Small Fry Girls & Boys, Mite Girls and Boys, Midgets and Junior will participate in a basketball tournament on March 2 in the A.C. Tollison Gym. Check our Facebook page, under Marion Recreation, for information about the tournaments and for pictures.

Senior bingo, aerobics, and more offered

Marion Recreation offers Senior Bingo on the first and third Thursday of each month from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center. Refreshments and prizes for those who win are offered. There is plenty of room for newcomers to join the fun! Senior Flexibility is also offered each Monday and Thursday from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m in the Watsonia Center, too. The class is FREE of charge, but donations are appreciated. Call Cheryl at 423-5410 about other programs offered.

Marion girls head to competition

The Marion Recreation Department has a group of girls, who have been working hard for more than a year, getting ready to travel this month to Myrtle Beach to compete against other cheerleading groups. The competition will be March 22–24.

Each cheerleader signed up and made a commitment to stick to the program, paying fees and helping to raise money. The girls paid for their uniforms, shoes, bows, etc., in order to prepare for the competition. The uniforms have been ordered and they are on the way!

The girls conducted various fundraisers throughout the year, such as selling breast cancer awareness bracelets and pens, having a bake sale and selling Christmas Secret Santa cupcake boxes. All of the money raised has gone to pay for the competition fees.

"We are very proud of every girl for sticking to this program and for the parents who helped them with any sales, getting to practices and helping them with anything else that came their way," Cheryl Askins, recreation department administrative assistant said. "Also, we thank Coach Kelly Morehouse for dedicating her time to teach the girls about the fundamentals of cheering." Cheerleaders competing this month are Madison Baxley, Kayla Rogers, Madison Cook, Kaylen Hood, Katie Herring, Leah Mercyre, Kensley Moore and Justice Cooper.

Get to know your City Council



RODNEY BERRY

Mayor



RONALD ATKINSON

Mayor Pro Tem
District 2



RALPH ATKINSON

District 1



BETSY ATKINSON

District 3



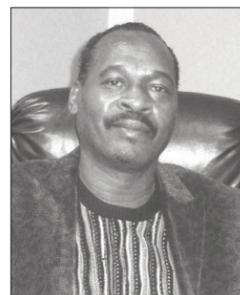
BOBBY DAVIS

District 4



ODESSA GREGG

District 5



MICHAEL BAKER

District 6

Mayor Rodney Berry was elected in April 2009. His term ends in April 2013. He can be reached by calling his office telephone at **843-423-8235**.

Council member Ronald Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072**.

Council member Ralph Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-250-0446**.

Council member Betsy Atkinson was elected in April 2009. Her term ends in April 2013. She can be reached at **843-430-1137**.

Council member Bobby Davis was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655**.

Council member Odessa Gregg was elected in April 2011. Her term ends in 2013. She can be reached at **843-423-4847**.

Council member Michael Baker was reelected in April 2009. His term ends in 2013. He can be reached by telephone at **843-597-3617**.

Coming in March

Keep up with what's going on around Marion! Get your event listed! Call City Hall at 423-5961.

5th, Tuesday, 11 a.m. Caregiving and Understanding Behaviors, Meet in Classroom A in the Marion County Medical Center at 3032 U.S. Highway 76. Call 423-1888 for more information.

6th, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine! Business networking opportunity at First Citizens on Main Street. Call Chuck at 423-9918 for details. Come and bring a friend!

6th, Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Wonderful Wednesday luncheon at the Marion County Museum, "Remembering Coach Shannon Wilkerson."

Call Rosanne at 423-8299 to reserve your seat.



12th, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

13th, Wednesday, Noon, Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting, Marion County Medical Center, U.S. Highway 76, Call 423-1888 for details.

16th, Saturday, 9 a.m., Table Tennis Tourney! Sign up today! Call Russ at 423-5410 for details!

29th, Friday, City offices closed in observance of Good Friday.

Lenten Lunches ...

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, Opera House, Noon-1 p.m. Church sponsors are Marion Baptist, First United Methodist, Harvest Baptist and Door of Hope.

Coming soon ...

April 13, Farmers Market re-opens downtown

April 11-13, Living History Days at the Marion County Museum

April 20, Frogmore Fest, On the Courthouse Square

May 3, Olde Towne Marion's Annual Meeting and Edible Auction

May 7, 2nd Annual Art & Wine Stroll, Marion County Museum

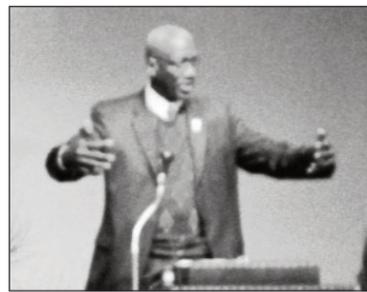
Chamber recognizes Baxleys, Brady; DEW Director talks about efforts to address state's unemployment needs, especially in Marion County



Saying the recognition was long overdue and a unanimous one by the selection committee, Baxley's Hardware owners Roy Lee, Landis and Scott Baxley were honored as the Small Business Persons of the Year during the Marion Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting in January. Shown above, the family received their award from the 2012 recipients Ann & Denley Caughman.

Following that presentation, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) Director, Major Gen. Abraham J. Turner, USA Retired, discussed the agency's plans to help improve employment opportunities in the state, especially in the Marion area, and how the agency is improving its services to the citizens who come to them for help.

More than 120 people gathered for the meeting, hearing Turner say that often there is a "skills set mix-match" between what a potential employer needs and what a potential employee has. Additionally, Turner, shown at left, told the group, there is a "dire need for us to get businesses survive as they employ most of the state's people..."



Turner said after assuming his role as the leader of the state agency he has tried to turn it into a customer-focused one, "serving those seeking employment more proficiently and efficiently," training employees more frequently and adding a credentialing process. The end result, he said, is that customers will be given the same answers to their questions, state wide. Also, Turner has worked to improve his department's information technology

and added faster self-service kiosks, and more. Turner said his department is also works on cracking down on unemployment fraud, saving the state money. He also conducts monthly business roundtable meetings across the state, meeting with officials to verify needs.

"We're focusing on Marion ... you need it most ... and we're serious about this economic pause...We must bring all counties forward," he said.



Following Turner's presentation, the 2012 recipient of the Community Service Award, T. Carroll Atkinson III, presented community leader Ashley Brady with the 2013 Community Service Award. That award allows the recipient to make a \$250 donation to the charity of his or her choice. Brady was recognized for his commitment to community service, community leadership, civic participation and involvement through the Chamber and Rotary and other ventures, as well as for his work with the Boy Scouts, Atkinson said.

Chamber President Dianne Herrington took the gavel from outgoing President Alan Zeman and recognition was paid to the retiring Chamber Board members. This is Herrington's second time as president, third on the board, she said. "I was delighted with the attendance at the annual meeting since Gen. Turner has such a positive message for Marion County. As president of the Marion Chamber, I am dedicated to working across all sections of our community to make Marion an even better place to live and work."

"I have enjoyed working with others in the community for the betterment of Marion ..." Zeman said.

Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at **(843) 765-4539**

or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you...

Mayor Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235

City Administrator, Building Official Alan Ammons, Ext. 19

City Clerk Pam Jones, Ext. 10

City Treasurer Patricia Brown, Ext. 18

Municipal Court Clerk Heather Evans, 843-423-8616

Personnel, Purchasing Director Elizabeth Fick, 843-423-8614

Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11

Recreation Admin Assistant Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina.

Printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper. The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For information about the newspaper, call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS! SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

Together, we can make a difference ... The City of Marion has a **TEXT A TIP** line ... See a crime happening? Have a TIP?

Text it to 430-0938.

T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938

T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 * TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938

SPORTS & RECREATION

Marion Rec headquarters gets makeover



Everything needs a little face lifting and caring for at some point in time! The Watsonia Recreation Center has recently undergone a transformation, from a name change of the street to interior painting by city employees. More photographs of the transformation can be found online on the Department's Facebook page, or stop in and say hello!



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Don't forget to check out the City of Marion & the Marion Recreation Department on Facebook.

The sites are updated routinely. The Rec site has game schedules, cancellations, photos, more photos, and much more!

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month

Mrs. A.C. Tollison, 903 Willcox Avenue, has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for February 2013. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mrs. Tollison will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

